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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Tuesday, October 25, 1932.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "Preventing Rings After Cleaning." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

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In many homes these days women are carrying on clothes-saving campaigns. Making old clothes new, making new clothes last and keep their good looks--these are some of the ways to help the family pocketbook. And the more we women know about making over clothes and about cleaning and pressing successfully the better for our budgets.

Today the subject up for discussion is a cleaning problem. What to do about those troublesome rings that are often left on a garment after you have taken out a spot or stain? No trouble with such rings, of course, if the whole dress is cleaned, all dipped at once in a cleaning material. The difficulty comes when you clean just one spot or a spot here or there. The ring appears around the edge of the place you have cleaned. And, as one of my friends complained the other day, "The ring that forms after I've taken out the spot often looks worse than the spot."

What causes these rings? Any one of a number of things, say the textile specialists.

Suppose you have a dress that is slightly soiled all over but has one very bad spot somewhere--perhaps on the skirt. And suppose you take out that spot. Then what happens? Why then this one cleaned area will stand out conspicuously, will be lighter in color than the rest of the dress which still is soiled and has a slightly soiled color. And you'll have a ring around this cleaned area. That's reason No. 1 for the formation of a ring.

Then again you may have a dress made of fabric that has dressing or sizing in it. When you apply a cleaning fluid to remove some stain, the dressing dissolves in the fluid, and is carried to the edge of the damp portion of the material.

Still another reason for rings. The fluid or solvent may draw up or shrink the fabric and make a space where the yarns are tighter than in the rest of the garment.

That's three causes of rings so far. And here are three more. The solvent you use may be impure, may have dirt dissolved in it. This dirt then spreads over the dampened part causing a ring. Again, if you use too much solvent, a ring forms before the solvent spreads and evaporates. Finally, if the solvent doesn't evaporate quickly enough and the grease spot or soil just dries in again, you have another ring.

There you have the causes. Now let's see how you can prevent rings from forming when you take out spots and stains.



The specialists suggest two good ways of removing stains--one is the pad method and the other is the bowl method. With the pad method, you place a pad under the material to absorb the dirt. With the bowl method, you spread the stained area over a bowl and apply water or whatever chemicals you use to take out the stain.

The pad method is the one to use to prevent rings. Start by placing a heavy absorbent cloth or a clean white blotter beneath the stain, with the right side of the stain down. This pad draws out both the solvent and the dirt that has dissolved from the garment. You see, the soil can't evaporate with the cleaning fluid and it needs somewhere to go. The pad catches the soil as well as the solvent and also prevents the spread of the solvent. In this way, the pad keeps rings from forming.

When you go after the spot, first moisten the sponging cloth lightly with the solvent. Then put one or two thicknesses of the dry cloth over the moistened cloth before you begin to sponge. In sponging, use very light strokes. Brush over the spots lightly, working from the outside in, and spread the solvent quickly and lightly into the surrounding material to prevent a ring from forming. As the solvent goes on, you can blow on it lightly to help it dry quickly. Any way that you can hasten the drying helps, whether you shake the garment or brush the damp section with a dry rag.

One more point. Be sure to change that pad underneath often, as soon as it becomes slightly soiled. Be particularly careful about this when you are taking out grease stains.

So now, the next time anyone asks you how to prevent rings when cleaning garments, you can tell them five good ways--count them right off on your fingers. First, by using an absorbent cloth or blotter beneath the stain. Second, by using straight, light strokes, beginning in the area around the stain and working toward the stain. Third, by using just a little solvent at a time. Several small applications are far better than too much at once. Fourth, by drying the solvent quickly--blowing on the stain as you apply the solvent. Fifth, by working rapidly.

But suppose you already have a cleaning ring on your dress. Can you remove it in any way? Sometimes you can remove it quite easily by rubbing, especially if the fabric has a crepe weave. Rings never show as plainly on rough or figured fabrics as they do on smooth and plain-colored materials.

Well, you may be able to take out the ring this way. Place the spot over a clean section of the pad. With your fingernail or the edge of a spoon rub the edge of the ring lightly. If the ring doesn't disappear, take up the fabric and rub it gently between your hands.

All this may sound like a lot of work. But once you try it, it will seem quite simple. A good cleaning job may save you the whole cost of a dress. But in doing any cleaning you need to take plenty of time and great care for success.

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Tomorrow: A Wednesday dinner with a recipe for a hot spiced grape beverage.

